

Listing of the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A cordless blind comprising:

a headrail;

a bottom rail suspended from the headrail by a first cord and a second cord;

a window covering disposed between the headrail and the bottom rail;

a drive actuator including:

a spring motor, and

a spool for accumulating the cords coupled to the spring motor; and,

a one-way tensioning mechanism, wherein the tensioning mechanism engages one of the first and second cords to provide a resistant force preventing movement of the one of the first and second cords in one of the direction of the force applied to the one of the cords by the spring motor and the direction of the force of the weight of the bottom rail and an accumulated portion of the window covering supported by the one of the cords, and wherein the tensioning mechanism is configured to not provide a resistant force preventing movement of the one of the first and second cords in the opposite direction, and wherein movement of the one of the cords in the one of the directions moves the one-way tensioning mechanism to an engaged position and movement of the one of the cords in the opposition direction moves the one-way tensioning mechanism to a disengaged position.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A cordless blind comprising:

a headrail;

a bottom rail suspended from the headrail by a first cord and a second cord;

a window covering disposed between the headrail and the bottom rail;

a drive actuator including:

a spring motor, and

a spool for accumulating the cords coupled to the spring motor; and,
a one-way tensioning mechanism, wherein the tensioning mechanism is configured to provide a resistant force on movement of one of the first and second cords in one direction, wherein the one-way tensioning mechanism comprises:

a mechanism bracket, with the mechanism bracket having a base and a first upright and a second upright coupled to the base, with each upright defining an aperture and further, each upright including a pawl, with one pawl aligned in facing relationship with the other pawl and,
a pulley mounted between the two uprights, with the pulley having a cylinder with a side wall on each end of the cylinder, each sidewall having an inner face and an outer face, with each outer face having a plurality of ratchet teeth configured to selectively engage the pawl on each upright.

Claim 3 (original): The cordless blind of Claim 2, wherein the pulley is configured to move within the apertures to one of a free-wheeling position and a stopped position.

Claim 4 (original): The cordless blind of Claim 3, wherein the aperture in the first upright is sized different from the aperture in the second upright.

Claim 5 (original): The cordless blind of Claim 2, wherein the base and two uprights are formed as a single, integral piece.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The cordless blind of Claim 1, including a second one-way tensioning mechanism configured to provide a resistant force preventing movement in one direction of the other cord, and wherein the second tensioning mechanism is configured to not provide a resistant force preventing movement in the opposite direction of the other cord.

Claim 7 (original): The cordless blind of Claim 1, wherein the drive actuator is mounted in the headrail.

Claim 8 (original): A one-way tensioning mechanism in a cordless blind with the cordless blind having a headrail, a bottom rail suspended from the headrail by at least a first cord and a second cord, a window covering disposed between the headrail and the bottom rail, a drive actuator including a spring motor, and a spool for accumulating the cords coupled to the spring motor, the one-way tensioning mechanism coupled to one of the first cord and the second cord, the one-way tensioning mechanism comprising:

a mechanism bracket, with the mechanism bracket having a base and a first upright and a second upright coupled to the base, with each upright defining an aperture and further, each upright including a pawl, with one pawl aligned in facing relationship with the other pawl and,

a pulley mounted between the two uprights, with the pulley having a cylinder with a side wall on each end of the cylinder, each sidewall having an inner face and an outer face, with each outer face having a plurality of ratchet teeth configured to selectively engage the pawl on each upright,

wherein the tensioning mechanism is configured to provide a resistant force on movement of one of the first and second cords in one direction.

Claim 9 (original): The one-way tensioning mechanism of Claim 8, wherein the spool is configured to move within the apertures to one of a free-wheeling position and a stopped position.

Claim 10 (original): The one-way tensioning mechanism of Claim 9, wherein the aperture in the first upright is sized different from the aperture in the second upright.

Claim 11 (original): The one-way tensioning mechanism of Claim 8, wherein the base and two uprights are formed as a single, integral piece.

Claim 12 (original): The one-way tensioning mechanism of Claim 8, including a second one-way tensioning mechanism configured to provide a resistant force on movement in one direction of the other cord.

Claim 13 (original): The one-way tensioning mechanism of Claim 8, wherein the drive actuator is mounted in the headrail.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A cordless blind comprising:

a headrail;

a bottom rail suspended from the headrail by a first cord and a second cord;

a window covering disposed between the headrail and the bottom rail;

a drive actuator coupled to the cords; and,

a means for providing a resistant force engaging one of the first and second cords and preventing movement of the one of the first and second cords in one of the direction of the force applied to the one of the cords by the drive actuator and the direction of the force of the weight of the bottom rail and an accumulated portion of the window covering supported by the one of the cords, ~~and~~ wherein the means for providing does not provide a resistant force preventing movement of the one of the first and second cords in the opposite direction, and wherein movement of the one of the cords in the one of the directions moves the means for providing to an engaged position and movement of the one of the cords in the opposition direction moves the means for providing to a disengaged position.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The cordless blind of Claim 14, wherein the means for providing a resistant force comprises:

a means for supporting, including a means for engaging; and,

a means for tensioning coupled to the means for supporting, with the means for tensioning configured to selectively engage the means for engaging.

Claim 16 (original): The cordless blind of Claim 15, wherein the means for tensioning is configured to move within the means for supporting to one of a free-wheeling position and a stopped position.

Claim 17 (original): The cordless blind of Claim 16, wherein the means for supporting includes a first aperture and a second aperture with the first aperture sized different from the second aperture.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The cordless blind of Claim 14, including a second means for providing a resistant force preventing movement in one direction of the other cord, and wherein the second means for providing is configured to not provide a resistant force preventing movement in the opposite direction of the other cord.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The cordless blind of Claim 14, wherein the drive actuator is mounted in the headrail.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The cordless blind of Claim 14, including at least one additional drive actuator mounted in the headrail and coupled to the cords.

Claim 21 (original): A method of providing a resistant force in a cordless blind, the method comprising:

providing a cordless blind, the blind having a headrail, a bottom rail suspended from the headrail by a first cord and a second cord, a window covering disposed between the headrail and the bottom rail, a drive actuator including a spring motor and spool for accumulating the cords;

installing a one-way tensioning mechanism;

winding one of the first cord and second cord around a pulley, having a plurality of ratchet teeth, mounted in the one-way tensioning mechanism; and

providing at least one pawl on the tensioning mechanism, with the pawl aligned to selectively engage the ratchet teeth of the pulley;

wherein the pulley is configured to move within the tensioning mechanism to one of a free-wheeling position and a stopped position.

Claim 22 (original): The method of claim 21, including the steps of installing a second one-way tensioning mechanism and winding the other of the first and second cord around a second pulley, having a plurality of ratchet teeth, mounted in the second one-way tensioning mechanism.

Claim 23 (original): The method of claim 21, wherein the one-way tensioning mechanism is mounted in the headrail.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A cordless blind comprising:

- a headrail;
- a bottom rail operatively coupled to the headrail with at least one cord;
- a window covering disposed between the headrail and the bottom rail; and
- a pulley operatively engaged with the cord and being rotatable in only one direction, wherein the pulley is adapted to not provide a resistive force preventing movement of the cord when the pulley rotates in the one direction, and to provide a resistive force ~~on~~ preventing movement of the cord when the tension on the cord would cause the pulley to rotate in the opposite direction.

Claim 25 (original): The cordless blind of claim 24, wherein the pulley is mounted in a mechanism bracket, with the bracket configured for the pulley to move to one of a free-wheeling position and a stopped position.

Claim 26 (original): The cordless blind of claim 24, including a second cord attached to the bottom rail and operatively coupled to the headrail; and a second pulley operatively engaged with the second cord and being rotatable in only one direction.

Claim 27 (original): The cordless blind of claim 24, wherein the pulley is mounted in the headrail.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A cordless blind comprising:

- a headrail;
- a bottom rail operatively coupled to the headrail with at least one cord;
- a window covering disposed between the headrail and the bottom rail; and
- a tensioner operatively engaged with the cord applying a first frictional force preventing movement of the cord in one of the direction of the force applied to the cords by the tensioner and the direction of the force of the weight of the bottom rail and an accumulated portion of the window covering supported by the one of the cords, wherein the tensioner does not prevent movement of the cord in the opposite direction, and wherein movement of the cord in the one of the directions moves the tensioner to an engaged position and movement of the cord in the opposition direction moves the tensioner to a disengaged position.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The cordless blind of claim 27, including a second cord operatively coupled to the bottom rail and headrail; and a second tensioner operatively engaged with the second cord applying a second frictional force preventing movement of the second cord in only one direction.

Claim 30 (original): The cordless blind of claim 28, wherein the tensioner is mounted in the headrail.